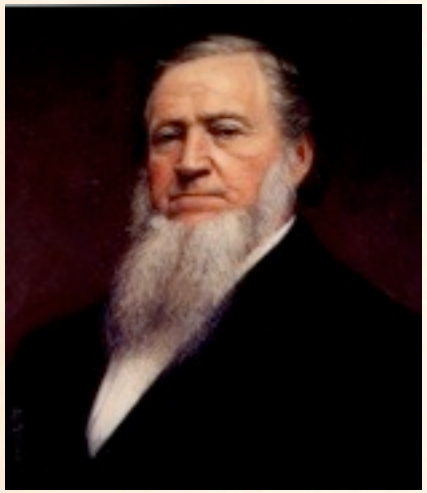
UNDERSTANDING CONSECRATION

It's Philosophy, Purpose, Precedents, Principles & Procedures

CONSECRATION:
EASY TO UNDERSTAND



"No revelation that was ever given
is more easy of comprehension
than that on the law of consecration."

(Brigham Young, 3 June 1855)

WHAT IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF CONSECRATION?

- Everything belongs to God (even ourselves)
- We owe everything to God
  & Are accountable for what we do with what we have
- All our efforts should go towards serving God
  (to show our love, and try to repay Him)

Consecrational Philosophy

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

"For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things:"
(Romans 11:36)

"Behold, all these properties are mine,
or else your faith is vain,"
(D&C 104:55)

"Ye are not your own"
(1 Corinthians 6:19)

Consecrational Philosophy

WE OWE EVERYTHING TO GOD

"Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath,
he cannot be my disciple."
(Luke 14:33)

"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,
acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."
(Romans 12:1)

"Unto whomsoever much is given,
of him shall be much required:"
(Luke 12:48)

WE SHOULD WORK TO REPAY HIM

"The laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion;
for if they labor for money they shall perish."
(2 Nephi 26:31)

"No servant can serve two masters: ...
Ye cannot serve God and mammon."
(Luke 16:13)

"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings
ye are only in the service of your God."
(Mosiah 2:17)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CONSECRATION?

- To be equal in material and heavenly blessings
- To be united in heart and mind with others and God
- To work for God and be wise stewards
- To get away from Babylon and its influences

Consecrational Purpose

TO BE EQUAL

"It is not given that one man should possess that which is above another, wherefore the world lieth in sin."
(D&C 49:20)

"In your temporal things you shall be equal,
and this not grudgingly,"
(D&C 78:5)

"I, the Lord, have decreed to provide for my saints,
that the poor shall be exalted, in that the rich are made low."
(D&C 104:16)

Consecrational Purpose

TO BE UNITED

"I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine."
(D&C 38:27)

"Let every man ... be alike among this people, and receive alike, that ye may be one, even as I have commanded you."
(D&C 51:9)

"Every man seeking the interest of his neighbor,
and doing all things with an eye single to the glory of God."
(D&C 82:19)

Consecrational Purpose

TO WORK & BUILD TALENTS

"Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer."
(D&C 42:42)

"Every man may improve upon his talent, that every man may gain other talents,"
(Leviticus 20:26)

Consecrational Purpose

TO ESCAPE THE WORLD

"Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:"
(2 Corinthians 6:14)

"Go ye out of Babylon, be ye clean
that bear the vessels of the Lord."
(D&C 133:5)

"Ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy,
and have severed you from other people,
that ye should be mine."
(Leviticus 20:26)

WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPLES OF CONSECRATION?

- It has always been lived by God's people
- It is the only way Zion can be established
- It is essential to our exaltation
- It will never cease to be God's law
  & No Saints are exempt from living it

Consecrational Precedents

THERE WERE NO POOR AMONG THEM

"The Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, ... and there were no poor among them."
(Moses 7:18)

"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ... Neither was there any among them that lacked:"
(Acts 2:44, 4:34)

"They had all things common among them;
therefore there were not rich and poor"
(4 Nephi 1:3)

Consecrational Principles

IS ONLY WAY TO ESTABLISH ZION

"Zion cannot be built up unless it is by
the principles of the law of the celestial kingdom;
otherwise I cannot receive her unto myself."
(D&C 105:5)

"Call ye, upon the inhabitants of Zion, to organise themselves in the order of Enoch, according to the order of heaven, for the furtherance of my kingdom upon the earth, for the perfection of the Saints"
(Unpublished Revelations 74:2)

Consecrational Principles

IS ESSENTIAL TO EXALTATION

"He who is faithful and wise in time is accounted worthy to inherit the mansions prepared for him of my Father."
(D&C 72:4)

"For if ye are not equal in earthly things
ye cannot be equal in obtaining heavenly things;"
(D&C 78:6)

Consecrational Principles

THIS LAW WILL NOT CEASE

"A permanent and everlasting establishment
and order unto my church, ... to the salvation of man,"
(D&C 78:4)

"This order have I appointed to be an everlasting order unto you
and unto your successors,"
(D&C 82:20)

"None are exempt from this law
who belong to the church of the living God;"
(D&C 70:10)

SHOULD WE LIVE THIS WAY NOW?

"It is argued by some that when the principle of tithing came in, it superseded the principles of the United Order. The law of Moses was given ... in consequence of their disobedience, the Gospel in its fulness was withdrawn and the law of carnal commandments was added. ... Do you suppose it would have been wrong to search out the fulness of the Gospel, while living under the Mosaic law? But, in the Book of Mormon we find this point more fully illustrated. ... We find that Alma ... by his energy and perseverance, had discovered the fulness of the Gospel and obtained revelations from the Lord, and the privilege of observing the Gospel in all its fulness and blessings. Do you think the Lord was angry with them? They were under the Mosaic law, and yet considered it a blessing to observe the higher law." *(Lorenzo Snow, 21 April 1878)*

UNDERSTANDING CONSECRATION 2

THE BISHOP & STEWARD

Their Responsibilities, Roles & Relationship

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

- **Consecrate all things**
- Work diligently
- Improve time & talents
- Try to produce surplus

"According to the law every man that cometh up to Zion must lay all things before the bishop in Zion." *(D&C 72:15)*

"Thou wilt remember the poor, and consecrate of thy properties for their support that which thou hast to impart unto them, with a covenant and a deed which cannot be broken." *(D&C 42:30)*

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

- Consecrate all things
- **Work diligently**
- Improve time & talents
- Try to produce surplus

"The inhabitants of Zion also shall remember their labors, inasmuch as they are appointed to labor, in all faithfulness; for the idler shall be had in remembrance before the Lord." *(D&C 68:30)*

"Men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will," *(D&C 58:27)*

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

- Consecrate all things
- Work diligently
- **Improve time & talents**
- Try to produce surplus

"Thou shalt not idle away thy time, neither shalt thou bury thy talent that it may not be known." *(D&C 60:13)*

"Every man may improve upon his talent, that every man may gain other talents, yea, even an hundred fold, to be cast into the Lord's storehouse," *(D&C 82:18)*

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

- Consecrate all things
- Work diligently
- Improve time & talents
- **Try to produce surplus**

"If thou obtainest more than that which would be for thy support, thou shalt give it into my storehouse," *(D&C 42:55)*

"I require all their surplus property to be put into the hands of the bishop of my church in Zion," *(D&C 119:1)*

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

Continued

The steward must not -

- **Be idle**
- Seek riches
- Build Babylon

"Thou shalt not be idle; for he that is idle shall not eat the bread nor wear the garments of the laborer." *(D&C 42:42)*

"Wo unto you ... whose hands are not stayed from laying hold upon other men's goods, whose eyes are full of greediness, and who will not labor with your own hands!" *(D&C 56:17)*

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

Continued

The steward must not -

- Be idle
- **Seek riches**
- Build Babylon

"But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God." *(Jacob 2:18)*

"Seek not after riches nor the vain things of this world;" *(Alma 39:14)*

"Wo unto you rich men, that will not give your substance to the poor, for your riches will canker your souls;" *(D&C 56:16)*

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

Continued

The steward must not -

- Be idle
- Seek riches
- **Build Babylon**

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." *(Matthew 6:24)*

"But the laborer in Zion shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money they shall perish." *(2 Nephi 26:31)*

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

Continued

The steward must render account -

- **Over work**
- Over property
- Over blessings
- To the Bishop

"Unto the bishop in Zion, rendereth every man acceptable, and answereth all things, for an inheritance, and to be received as a wise steward and as a faithful laborer;

That they also may render themselves approved in all things, and be accounted as wise stewards." *(D&C 72:17,22)*

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

Continued

The steward must render account -

- Over work
- **Over property**
- Over blessings
- To the Bishop

"After they are laid before the bishop of my church, and after that he has received these testimonies concerning the consecration of the properties of my church, ... every man shall be made accountable unto me, a steward over his own property, or that which he has received by consecration, as much as is sufficient for himself and family."
(D&C 42:32)

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

Continued

The steward must render account -

- Over work
- Over property
- **Over blessings**
- To the Bishop

"For it is expedient that I, the Lord, should make every man accountable, as a steward over earthly blessings, which I have made and prepared for my creatures." *(D&C 104:13)*

THE ROLE OF STEWARD

Continued

The steward must render account -

- Over work
- Over property
- Over blessings
- **To the Bishop**

"The elders of the church in this part of my vineyard shall render an account of their stewardship unto the bishop, ...

Every elder in this part of the vineyard must give an account of his stewardship unto the bishop in this part of the vineyard -"
(D&C 72:5,16)

THE ROLE OF BISHOP

- **Receive consecrations**
- Appoint stewardships
- Divide lands / inheritances
- Administer storehouse / surplus
- Full time responsibility

"Behold, thou wilt remember the poor, and consecrate of thy properties for their support that which thou hast to impart unto them, with a covenant and a deed which cannot be broken.

And inasmuch as ye impart of your substance unto the poor, ye will do it unto me; and they shall be laid before the Bishop"
(D&C 42:30-31)

THE ROLE OF BISHOP

- Receive consecrations
- **Appoint stewardships**
- Divide lands / inheritances
- Administer storehouse / surplus
- Full time responsibility

"A commandment I give unto you, that ye shall organize yourselves and appoint every man his stewardship;

That every man may give an account unto me of the stewardship which is appointed unto him." *(D&C 104:11-12)*

THE ROLE OF BISHOP

- Receive consecrations
- Appoint stewardships
- **Divide lands / inheritances**
- Administer storehouse / surplus
- Full time responsibility

"Let my servant ... divide unto the saints their inheritance, even as I have commanded" *(D&C 57:7)*

"Whoso standeth in this mission is appointed to be a judge in Israel, ... to divide the lands of the heritage of God unto his children" *(D&C 58:17)*

THE ROLE OF BISHOP

- Receive consecrations
- Appoint stewardships
- Divide lands / inheritances
- **Administer storehouse / surplus**
- Full time responsibility

"Let my servant ... appoint unto this people their portions, every man equal according to his family, according to his circumstances and his wants and needs."

"And again, let the bishop appoint a storehouse unto this church; ..." *(D&C 51:3, 13)*

THE ROLE OF BISHOP

- Receive consecrations
- Appoint stewardships
- Divide lands / inheritances
- Administer storehouse / surplus
- **Full time responsibility**

"The bishop, also, shall receive his support, or a just remuneration for all his services in the church." *(D&C 42:73)*

"Let him also reserve unto himself for his own wants, and for the wants of his family, as he shall be employed in doing this business." *(D&C 51:14)*

THE ROLE OF BISHOP

Continued

- **Care for poor / ensure equality**
- Hold stewards to account
- Administer / judge in temporal matters
- Judge of worthiness
- Not exempt from accountability

"Every man according to his wants and his needs, inasmuch as his wants are just." *(D&C 82:17)*

"The bishop ... should travel round about ... searching after the poor to administer to their wants by humbling the rich and the proud." *(D&C 84:112)*

THE ROLE OF BISHOP

Continued

- Care for poor / ensure equality
- **Hold stewards to account**
- Administer / judge in temporal matters
- Judge of worthiness
- Not exempt from accountability

"Every man may give an account unto me of the stewardship which is appointed unto him.

For it is expedient that I, the Lord, should make every man accountable, as a steward over earthly blessings, which I have made and prepared for my creatures." *(D&C 104:12-13)*

THE ROLE OF BISHOP

Continued

- Care for poor / ensure equality
- Hold stewards to account
- **Administer / judge in temporal matters**
- Judge of worthiness
- Not exempt from accountability

"Whoso standeth in this mission is appointed to be a judge in Israel, ... to divide the lands of the heritage of God unto his children" *(D&C 58:7)*

"The office of a bishop is in administering all temporal things;" *(D&C 107:68)*

THE ROLE OF BISHOP

Continued

- Care for poor / ensure equality
- Hold stewards to account
- Administer / judge in temporal matters
- **Judge of worthiness**
- Not exempt from accountability

"To judge his people by the testimony of the just, and by the assistance of his counselors ..." *(D&C 58:8)*

"To be a judge in Israel, to do the business of the church, to sit in judgment upon transgressors upon testimony as it shall be laid before him according to the laws," *(D&C 107:72)*

THE ROLE OF BISHOP

Continued

- Care for poor / ensure equality
- Hold stewards to account
- Administer / judge in temporal matters
- Judge of worthiness
- **Not exempt from accountability**

"Even the bishop, who is a judge, and his counselors, if they are not faithful in their stewardships shall be condemned, and others shall be planted in their stead." *(D&C 64:40)*

"The Bishops are accountable before the Lord for their stewardships" *(Joseph Smith, Unpublished Revelation 13:8)*

Consecrational Procedure

Possessions and Property
Consecrated by the Steward

"Thou wilt remember the poor, and consecrate of thy properties for their support" *(D&C 42:30)*

Consecrational Procedure

Possessions and Property
Consecrated by the Steward

↓

Stewardship is **Decided**
With Steward and Bishop

"Every man shall be made accountable unto me, a steward over his own property, or that which he has received by consecration" *(D&C 42:32)*

Consecrational Procedure

Possessions and Property
Consecrated by the Steward

↓

Stewardship is **Decided**
With Steward and Bishop

↓

Deed to the **Just Needs** of
the Steward is Received Back

"When he shall appoint a man his portion, give unto him a writing that shall secure his portion, that he shall hold it." *(D&C 51:4)*

Consecrational Procedure

Possessions and Property
Consecrated by the Steward

↓

Stewardship is **Decided**
With Steward and Bishop

↓

Deed to the **Just Needs** of
the Steward is Received Back

↓

Any **Surplus** is Given to
the Bishop's **Storehouse**

"If there shall be properties … more than is necessary for their support … which is a residue to be consecrated unto the Bishop, it shall be kept to administer to those who have not" *(D&C 42:33)*

Consecrational Procedure

Possessions and Property **Consecrated** by the Steward

↓

Stewardship is **Decided** With Steward and Bishop

↓

Deed to the **Just Needs** of the Steward is Received Back

↓

Any **Surplus** is Given to the Bishop's **Storehouse**

↓

A **Tithe** of the Surplus is Given to the **Treasury**

"Those who gather unto the land of Zion shall be tithed of their surplus properties"
(D&C 119:5)

Consecrational Procedure

Possessions and Property **Consecrated** by the Steward

↓

Stewardship is **Decided** With Steward and Bishop

↓

Deed to the **Just Needs** of the Steward is Received Back

↓

Any **Surplus** is Given to the Bishop's **Storehouse**

↓

A **Tithe** of the Surplus is Given to the **Treasury**

↓

Additional Needs are Met out of Bishop's **Storehouse**

"The residue shall be kept in my storehouse, to administer to the poor and the needy"
(D&C 42:34)

STEWARDSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Mismanaged stewardships can be lost**

  "He that sinneth and repenteth not … shall not receive again that which he has consecrated unto the poor and the needy of my church" *(D&C 42:37, see 51:5)*

- **We may be cursed for breaking these covenants**

  "Inasmuch as some of my servants have not kept the commandment, but have broken the covenant through covetousness, and with feigned words, I have cursed them with a very sore and grievous curse." *(D&C 104:4)*

STEWARDSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY

Continued

- **We are accountable for how we manage our stewardship & we will be judged by this in eternity**

"It is required of the Lord, at the hand of every steward, to render an account of his stewardship, both in time and eternity." *(D&C 72:3)*

"An account of this stewardship will I require of them in the day of judgment." *(D&C 70:4)*

STEWARDSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY

Continued

- **There are eternal blessings for faithfulness -**

"And behold, he that is faithful shall be made ruler over many things." *(D&C 52:13)*

"And he that is a faithful and wise steward shall inherit all things. Amen." *(D&C 78:22)*

"And this shall be my seal and blessing upon you—a faithful and wise steward in the midst of mine house, a ruler in my kingdom." *(D&C 101:61)*

WHAT THE LORD EXPECTS

"The Lord wants to build up His Zion, and He wants to build it up through you and me. We are the ones He has called upon. Will we consent to do this? I firmly believe that, before we make any very effectual progress in the accomplishment of that work, we must become more united and more fervent in our faith and practice than we have ever yet been at any time. We have to become more like a single family, and be one, that we may be the Lord's; and not every one have his own individual interest. This is destructive, this disconnects the feelings of the people one from another, and causes divisions and disunion. But when we make the general cause of Zion our individual cause it brings us closer together."

(Brigham Young, Journal of Discourses 13:314)

BRIGHAM YOUNG'S 'FAMILY' ORDER

An Ideal to Follow

9th October 1872

Journal of Discourses 15

FAMILY ORDER IDEALS

- **Eat together**
- Pray together
- Make own clothing
- Build houses close

"Instead of having every woman getting up in the morning and fussing around a cookstove or over the fire, cooking a little food for two or three or half a dozen persons, ... Let me have my arrangement here, a hall in which I can seat five hundred persons to eat; and I have my cooking apparatus-ranges and ovens-all prepared."

FAMILY ORDER IDEALS

- Eat together
- **Pray together**
- Make own clothing
- Build houses close

"But here is our dining room, and adjoining this is our prayer room, where we would assemble perhaps five hundred persons at one time, and have our prayers in the evening and in the morning."

FAMILY ORDER IDEALS

- Eat together
- Pray together
- **Make own clothing**
- Build houses close

"Under such a system the women could go to work making their bonnets, hats, and clothing, or in the factories."

"Thou shalt not be proud in thy heart; let all thy garments be plain, and their beauty the beauty of the work of thine own hands;" *(D&C 42:40)*

FAMILY ORDER IDEALS

- Eat together
- Pray together
- Make own clothing
- **Build houses close**

"Build your houses just the size you want them, whether a hundred feet, fifty-feet or five, and have them so arranged that you can walk directly from work to dinner."

FAMILY ORDER IDEALS

Continued

- **Organized work**
- Evening classes
- Independence
- Self Sufficiency

"What will we do through the day? Each one go to his work. ... Some for the canyon, perhaps, or for the plow or harvest, no difference what, each and every class is organized, and all labor and perform their part."

FAMILY ORDER IDEALS

Continued

- Organized work
- **Evening classes**
- Independence
- Self Sufficiency

"When it comes evening, instead of going to a theatre, walking the streets, riding, ... repair to our room, and have our historians, and our different teachers to teach classes of old and young, to read the Scriptures to them; to teach them history, arithmetic, reading, writing and painting;"

FAMILY ORDER IDEALS

Continued

- Organized work
- Evening classes
- **Independence**
- Self Sufficiency

"Half the labor necessary to make a people moderately comfortable now, would make them independently rich under such a system."

FAMILY ORDER IDEALS

Continued

- Organized work
- Evening classes
- Independence
- **Self Sufficiency**

"A society like this would never have to buy anything; they would make and raise all they would eat, drink and wear, and always have something to sell and bring money, to help to increase their comfort and independence."

AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

"If this could be done I want to say to the Latter-day Saints, that I have a splendid place, large enough for about five hundred or a thousand persons to settle upon, and I would like to be the one to make a donation of it, with a good deal more, to start the business, to see if we can actually accomplish the affair, and show the Latter-day Saints how to build up Zion. ...

Leave Babylon in Babylon - leave everything and come here to worship the living God, and learn of his ways, that we may walk in his paths. This is our duty, and what we should do."

OUR OPPORTUNITY

"The Lord Almighty has not the least objection in the world to our entering into the Order of Enoch. I will stand between the people and all harm in this. ... We are at liberty — to go and build up a settlement ... and enter into covenant with each other by a firm agreement that we will live as a family, ... If any man can bring up anything to prove to the contrary I am willing to hear it. But no man can do it."

(Brigham Young, 7 April 1873)